

NC will be No. 1 party in 2014 polls

Assembly elections on time, separatists ready to contest: Omar

***CM critical of Centre for inaction on Interlocutors' report**

Sanjeev Pargal
JAMMU, July 15: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today categorically ruled out advancing Assembly elections in the State along with

Assembly elections would be held on time. He said the Government had reports that some separatists could join the electoral fray. Leaving the option of pre-poll alliance with the Congress

finalised its candidates for a good number of Assembly seats in case it had to go it alone in the polls. The National Conference working president was of the view that his party would def-

In a significant statement, Omar asserted that Standing Operating Procedure (SOP) was not adhered to in both the incidents in which eight Army jawans were killed at Srinagar and two civilians



—Excelsior/Rakesh

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in different moods in an interview with Excelsior on Monday.

Parliament polls saying National Conference coalition Government would complete its full term of six years and

open saying the high commands of both the parties would take a decision at appropriate time, Omar, however, said the National Conference has

nately be No. 1 political party in the State after 2014 Assembly elections and it would form the Government either on its own or with the help of an ally.

'Ratanpuri should surrender RS seat'

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who also happens to be working president of National Conference, today took on NC's Rajya Sabha member Ghulam Nabi Ratanpuri saying he should surrender his Rajya Sabha seat, quit National Conference and form his own platform for issuing "irrelevant statements".

Asked about Mr Ratanpuri's recent statement that issues like autonomy, self-rule and Article 370 are raised only at the time of elections, Omar said general-

were killed at Bandipora. He declined to admit that militancy or infiltration has increased at alarming rate

Complete DGPC elections in 6 months: DB

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 15: In bunch of Letters Patent Appeals filed against judgment of Writ Court whereby Divisional Commissioner Jammu was directed to take over the affairs of District Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee Jammu, Division Bench of High Court comprising Justice Mansoor Ahmed Mir and Justice Tashi Rabstan today held the Divisional Commissioner fully responsible for conducting the affairs of the Committee for a period of six months with the assistance of the Committee which was in position on the date of passing of the impugned order.

The DB directed the competent authorities to take all the steps, which are required as per the mandate of the Act and Rules read with the communication made by Assistant Commissioner (Nazool), Jammu, to take the election process in the entire State to its logical end within six months.

Earlier, the counsels for the appellants argued that the impugned judgment was not in accordance with the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Sikh Gurdwaras and Religious Endowment Act, 1973 and consent order cannot be made in breach of the main provisions of the Act and Rules.

At this stage, counsel for the Caveators and AAG appearing for the State, stated at the Bar that



A boy looking at colourful parrots at a bird market in Old Delhi on Monday. (UNI)

Talks with Pak on: India

NEW DELHI, July 15:

India today said it was in discussion with Pakistan to finalise the dates for the meetings of the third round of resumed dialogue.

Recalling Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's special envoy Shaharyar M Khan's recent visit to India, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Syed Akbaruddin said "we exchanged views and he has gone back with an understanding of our views on this. We will take it up when we receive the response from Pakistan on that".

Khan had during his visit this month met with Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and top offi-

300 ultras waiting to enter: Hooda

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 15: The Army today said terrorists in groups of 10 are trying to sneak inside Indian territory and attack troops at border posts.

"250 to 300 terrorists in groups of 10 or 20 are waiting to sneak inside Indian territory with inputs being that their concentration is maximum opposite Poonch," General Officer Commanding (GoC) 19 Corps, Lt Gen D S Hooda told reporters on the sidelines of the inauguration of 220m long Battal bridge over Munawar Tawi river, which has been constructed by the BRO at a cost of Rs 12.5 crore.

"There is an increase in their attempts across the Line of Control (LoC) targeting the posts, trying and disturbing our grid,

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2 CRPF jawans killed in mishap

Excelsior Correspondent

RAMBAN, July 15: Two Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) jawans were killed, while another seriously injured in truck-CRPF vehicle collision near Chanderkote main bazaar, here today. As per reports, a CRPF 407 vehicle carrying jawans of 84 Battalion was on its way to Chanderkote, when it was hit by a truck bearing registration number JK02AF-0427 coming from Srinagar near Chanderkote main bazaar, resulting into serious injuries to three CRPF jawans.

On getting information, police and locals rushed to the spot and

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SSP, 7 SPs posted in Vigilance

Excelsior Correspondent

JAMMU, July 15: The State Government today ordered transfers and postings of eight Police officers in the Vigilance Organization. Kifayat Hyder, Commandant JKAP 13th Battalion, is transferred and posted as SSP Vigilance against an available vacancy. R K Chalotra, SP Security, Jammu is transferred and posted as SP Vigilance against an available vacancy.

Mohd Syed Punoo, Commandant JKAP 12th Battalion, is transferred and posted as SP Vigilance. He shall join as Vigilance Organization on the retirement of Rafiq Ahmad Vakil on August 31, 2013. Nisha Nathyal, Commandant IR 15th battalion and Zahid Naseem Manhas, awaiting orders of adjustment in the Police Headquarters, are transferred and posted as SP Vigilance against available vacan-

(Contd on page 7 Col 7)

27 ASIs promoted

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 15: Inspector General of police, Kashmir, Abdul Ghani Mir today ordered the promotion of 27 Assistant Sub-Inspectors to the rank of Sub-Inspectors. A police spokesperson said the IGP issued formal promotion orders in respect of 27 Sub-Inspectors having lien and seniority with Kashmir zone. Mir has congratulated the promoted officers and their families and urged them to work with more dedication and devotion.

Woman set afire by burglars

SRINAGAR, July 15:

A 22-year-old woman suffered serious burn injuries in an attack by burglars who struck at her house and robbed gold ornaments worth lakhs of rupees, police said today. A group of burglars last night broke into the house of one Mohd Sultan Parray at Maloora village, 10km from here, when his daughter, Shameema, was alone inside.

When she tried to raise an alarm, the burglars doused her with kerosene and set her on fire, police said. The woman saved herself by jumping into a nearby canal from where she was subsequently rescued by locals who responded to her cries for help.

However, the robbers had already escaped with the booty when the villagers reached the house.

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Protests, clashes over death of 2 boys

Excelsior Correspondent

SRINAGAR, July 15: Police fired tear gas shells and used batons to quell protests at various places in Srinagar and North Kashmir against the mysterious death of two Kashmiri youth in Mumbai and Rajasthan.



Para-military jawans patrolling a street at Delina, Baramulla on Monday. —Excelsior/Abid Nabi

For the second consecutive day today, a complete shutdown and clashes erupted at various areas of North and Central Kashmir against these deaths. Around half a dozen policemen and protesters were injured in these clashes.

A complete shutdown was observed at Nawa Bazar in Srinagar and Sopore, Bandipora, Baramulla, Dalina, Naidkhai, Larsun in North Kashmir and Ganderbal in Central Kashmir

over the mysterious death of the two youth, Parvez Ahmad Tali of Qalambanpora Srinagar and Abid Ahmad Gani of Larson, Ganderbal.

Scores of youth tried to hold a protest demonstration at main Sopore Chowk this morning. The presence of police and CRPF deployed in the township did not

allow them to hold protest demonstration. The youths pelted stones towards police and CRPF. The police in reiteration fired tear gas shells and resorted to baton charge to disperse them. The locals said that during the clashes one Army vehicle came under heavy stone pelting near main Chowk Sopore. The Army personnel boarded in other vehicles of the convoy jumped from their vehicles and entered residential areas with police and CRPF to chase the protesters.

A large group of youths assembled at main Chowk Delina in Baramulla and raised slogans against the death of two youth. The police personnel deployed there, intervened and asked the youths to disperse, the youths pelted stones towards the police and CRPF.

The police fired in air and also fired smoke shells towards the

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Army chief reviews security situation in J&K

Fayaz Bukhari

SRINAGAR, July 15: Chief of Army Staff, General Bikram Singh today reviewed the overall security scenario in State including the situation along the Line of Control (LoC) with Pakistan arisen after recent infiltration attempts by militants.

The visit comes in the wake of deadly attack in recent years on an Army convoy in Hyderabad area of Srinagar last month in which eight Army personnel were killed and 14 others injured.

General Singh arrived on a two-day visit to the State early

today to assess the security situation in the State including the anti-infiltration measures put in place along the LoC in the wake of increased attempts of infiltration by militants.

The Army chief was briefed about the security situation in Kashmir valley by General Officer Commanding of the 15 Corps, Lt General Gurmit Singh at the Badami Bagh Corps Headquarters in Srinagar.

The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Northern Command, Lt General Sanjiv Chachra who is also here on the occasion briefed the Army chief about the situation

in the State.

Gen Singh was given a detailed briefing about the security situation in Kashmir valley and operations that are being conducted by the Army against militants. He was briefed about, how Army is maintaining pressure on the militants in the hinterland and about the successes achieved by the Army.

General Singh was briefed about the anti-infiltration grid that has been strengthened after the reports of increased attempts of infiltration by militants along the LoC in North Kashmir and Poonch. He was told that the

Army is keeping tight vigil along the LoC to foil infiltration attempts.

The Army commanders gave details of the recently foiled infiltration attempt in Keran sector of North Kashmir to General Singh. Five militants were killed by Army when these militants were trying to sneak in in Keran sector last month. The Army chief commended the role of soldiers deployed along the LoC in foiling the infiltration bid in Keran.

The recent developments along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Ladakh region were

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'Commission can't be used as instrument of appeasement for any body's vote bank'

Cong, NC Legislators have never read law on the subject: Mir

Neeraj Rohmetra

JAMMU, July 15: Retaliating to the cynicism of various Legislators over working of the Backward Commission, Chairman Justice (ret'd) A M Mir has stated that these politicians weren't aware about the working of the institution, which is an autonomous body and have never read the law, which governs the functioning of the Commission.

"Further, despite the fact that all these Legislators were sent a copy of Rules of Business and a resume about the working of the Commission, the complaining leaders have never read the law or the resume sent to them. The

Commission says so because had that been done, the case before EXCELSIOR would have never been projected in its present form (as reported on July 11 issue)", says the four page statement issued by the Chairman Justice Mir.

The documents states, "while Commission will definitely provide succor to deserving far flung areas and really backward classes. But, at the same time it cannot be allowed to be used as an instrument for appeasement of any body's vote bank".

"On April 9, 2013, the Commission while sharply noticing the anxiety of some of the Legislators shown in the Legislative Council on April 4,

2013 (published in Daily Excelsior dated April 5, 2013), held an extra-ordinary meeting", the statement says adding, "it was genuinely felt that remarks of some legislators arose out of ignorance of working pattern and problems of the Commission. Thus a decision was taken to send a copy of Rules of Business and a resume to each Legislator".

As a result of the decision, Copies of rules and resume were sent to Speaker of Legislative Assembly and Speaker of Legislative Council respectively for distribution among all Legislators. "In its resume, the Commission had made a fervent appeal to the complaining repre-

sentatives to ask the real application to appear and follow their cases with the Commission", the statements say.

The documents further add, "it is obvious that complaining leaders have never read the law on the subject or the resume sent to them".

Reacting to views expressed by Congress Legislator regarding the revision of list of reserved areas, the Chairman says, "one of the learned legislators has frowned upon the Commission for the reason that the Commission has omitted to revise the existing lists. The learned legislator" before leveling such an allegation against the

(Contd on page 7 Col 5)

State employees gear up for final 'battle' over grave injustice

Ladakh inhospitable terrain for Central employees not for J&K

Mohinder Verma

JAMMU, July 15: Unbelievable it may sound but it is a fact that Ladakh region is inhospitable terrain with extreme harsh climate for the Central Government employees of Jammu and Kashmir.

This is evident from the different yardsticks being adopted in case of similarly situated employees. However, the resentment over being treated differently among the State employees has reached stage of climax and if the corrective steps are not taken the official machinery will come to standstill in the region.

Official sources told EXCELSIOR that keeping in view the inhospitable terrain and extreme harsh climate, the Central Government sanctioned Special Duty Allowance at the rate of 12.5% of the basic pay in case of its employees posted in the Ladakh region with effect from September 2008. However, this benefit eludes the employees of the State Government during the past nearly 5 years.

"The benefit has not been extended to the employees posted in the Ladakh region by the State Government despite the fact that a number of representations were made to the Chief Minister and Minister for Ladakh Affairs not only by the

representatives of the employees but also by the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, Deputy Commissioner-cum-Chief Executive Officer of the Hill Council", sources said. Even the Minister from the Leh district, Nawang Rigjin Jora personally took up the issue with the Minister for Finance, Abdul Rahim Rather in the month of March this year.

Justifying the demand of State Government employees, sources said, "faced with the prospects of numerous disadvantages, employees particularly from the Kashmir valley and Jammu region shirk from getting posted in Ladakh region and

always tend to find ways to manage themselves adjusted elsewhere on one or the other pretext".

"Those who fail to find way out and get posted in the region finally proceed on long leave in order to avoid working in the inhospitable conditions. There are instances where some employees even forego promotion to escape Ladakh transfer", they further said, adding "this trend is having direct bearing on the developmental prospects of the region with posts remaining vacant for long period and projects missing the deadlines".

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INSIDE	WEATHER
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